

John Smith – Eastham Land Records 1650-1745

This study includes land records for John Smith and his son John Smith Jr. John Smith was the second oldest son of Ralph Smith. John was born in 1644 in Hingham. He arrived in Eastham with the Smith family about 1654. John married Hannah Williams in 1667 according to Eastham records. The records also show that John married Mary Eldredge in 1668. John and Mary had a son John Jr. in 1669 and they had several more children. Other records describe Hannah (Williams) Mulford as the former wife of John Smith confirming there was a separation from John Smith. The records do not show John as active in Eastham affairs. It appears that John Smith died between 1703 and 1710. John, wife Mary and Hannah probably are buried in unmarked graves in Eastham Cove Burying Ground.

1673

Granted to John Smith, carpenter, about four acres next to the old path that goes to Kescayoganset between two cedar swamps. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF A281. (Note – Record transcription PDF M169 assigned the year 1692 to this grant and transcription PDF S96 assigned the year 1703 to this grant.)

1677

Granted to John Smith a small parcel of broken marsh ground near the harbor mouth. In consideration of this grant John Smith was to gather thatch to repair the meeting house. PDF P38.

1700

Granted to John Smith Jr., Daniel Smith and Joseph Myrick the swamp that is between their dwelling houses. The grant was with the condition that they improve the swamp by creating and maintaining a ditch near Joseph Myrick's house four feet wide, two feet deep and 330 feet (twenty pole) long as a place for cattle to drink. PDF M21.

1703

Granted to John Smith Jr. (commonly called "Town John Smith"), John Cole Jr. and Robert Young a parcel of meadow on the Middle Flat of the Town Flats next to the creek. The dimensions indicate the lot was about four and one-half acres. PDF A280, M168, S84.

1710

John Smith Jr. was granted liberty to exchange land near his dwelling house for land adjoining land of his deceased father. The dimensions indicate the exchange involved about six acres. Also granted to John Smith Jr. was about one acre of upland near the land he received in the exchange. PDF A172, M70, M71.

1711

Granted to John Smith, Ralph Smith, Thomas Smith, Maziah Harding, John Mulford and Beniah Snow the twenty-second lot out of twenty-four lots laid out at Great Island at Billingsgate. Dimensions were not given in the record but probably the lot was about seven acres like most of the other lots at Great Island. PDF T90.

Granted to John Smith and his heirs a wood lot of about six acres. The lot was north of Second Brook and next to the wood lot of Jeremiah Smith. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF T107.

Granted to John Smith and his heirs about four acres at Rock Harbor Neck. Two and one-half acres were next to land of Thomas Smith. One and one-half acres were on the northeast side of Rock Harbor Neck next to meadow commonly called Edmond Freeman's meadow. Bounds of both parcels were indicated by marked trees. PDF T107.

1712

Granted to John Smith and his heirs about four acres next to his other land and near the Cedar Swamp and next to land of Joshua Atwood and Joshua Bangs, deceased. The dimensions given in the record appear to be for the total property in the area owned by John Smith which amounted to about thirty acres. PDF T107.

1715

Granted to John Smith and his heirs about twenty acres between the house of Samuel Freeman Jr. and the Boat Meadow. Bounds were indicated by stakes and stones. PDF T225.

Granted to John Smith and his heirs a wood lot on the east side of the way to Billingsgate. The narrow lot ran east probably about one mile to the Backside Sea like adjoining lots. The dimensions of the lot indicate it was about thirty-two acres. Bounds were indicated by stakes. PDF T266.

1743

John Smith Jr. paid twenty pounds to Richard Paine to make good for damage done to Paine relating to loss of land which Paine had purchased from Jesse Smith. The nature of the loss is not described but it might relate to damage from drifting sand on marginal land as occurred in some other cases of land damage. The Town then granted John Smith Jr. two parcels of land in consideration of his compensation payment to Paine. The size and location of the two parcels were not included in the record. PDF T339.

1745

Meadow granted to John Smith in 1703 on the Great Flat was partly spoiled by drifting sand. The 1703 grant was amended to include a piece of meadow at Nauset Flats. The dimensions indicate the new meadow was about one acre. Bounds were indicated by stakes. PDF T347.

The land owned by John Smith and his heirs including John Smith Jr. described in these records amounts to about eighty-five acres. By 1745 twenty-four more Smiths were found in these records to have received Eastham land grants.